

California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume IV, Number 5

August 1989

A TALE FROM THE DARK SIDE

The "Lynching Party" in Clearlake

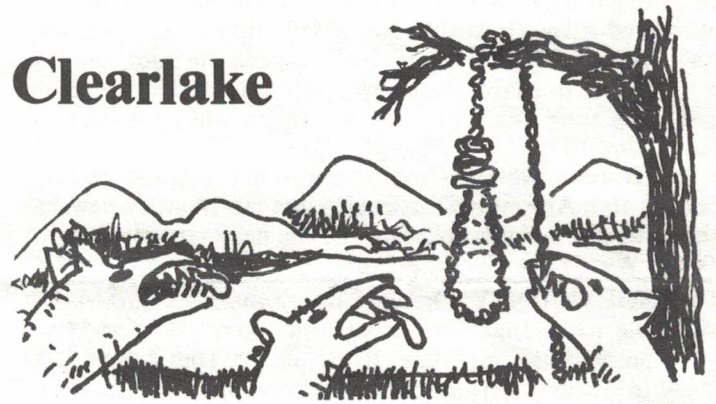
"REAL-WORLD" POLITICS is not to everyone's taste—it's certainly not for the faint-hearted. However, most people who enter the game have some idea what to expect even if they're simply trying to stop the deluge—as libertarians are trying to do. But at times the tactics of politicians and bureaucrats are so contemptible, so crude, as to shock even such savvy participants as libertarians. And the game can be played as rough and dirty in small towns as in the big city. Just ask Bill Struthers, who found out first-hand the hard way.

CLEARLAKE: The city of Clearlake, a major town in Lake County, is a beautiful, rural community. The waters of the lake are clean, the air is pure. Apparently one can't say as much for the local political scene which seems to be a moral toxic waste dump.

Last December, *CLNews* reported that a libertarian had been reelected to the city council. Bill Struthers, a close friend of Randy Grindle, was returned to office by the largest vote count in that community's history. He must be doing something right. He is. He's an outspoken critic of proposed plans introduce "redevelopment" to Clearlake, which makes him the friend of the taxpayers and long-time residents. "There's no need for redevelopment—the town isn't blighted," says Struthers.

But redevelopment isn't about "blight"—that's all PR by city administrators. Redevelopment is about money and power. Once the city has set up an agency, that agency can sell bonds for projects without approval by the voters, and the property of one person can be taken through eminent domain and given for a "higher and better use" to another. It's great for city governments that want to increase their powers (and there aren't many that don't) and developers who want to get their hands on a lot of real estate without having to deal with existing owners in the market place.

For the past couple of years Randy and Struthers have been working hard to prevent the redevelopment-pushers from setting up a redevelopment area in the town. There have been countless hearings at which Randy spoke, as did many



residents of Clearlake. But the council brought in smooth-talking attorneys and slick "consultants" to persuade opponents that redevelopment would be simply wonderful for Clearlake. "Now don't worry," said the city administrator Dan Obermeyer. "There are a number of steps that must be taken before the plan is finally approved."

One of the necessary steps is the approval by the council of

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ExCom to Meet

The LPC Executive Committee will meet in San Dimas, Aug. 5-6, at the San Dimas Inn, a Best Western Hotel. The hotel is on the 210 Fwy, Arrow Highway exit. There's a complementary shuttle from Ontario Airport. For those unfamiliar with the area, San Dimas is a pretty town about 25 miles due east of Los Angeles.

Saturday evening events are being worked out as of press time, but a trip to Raging Waters is definitely planned for those who are interested. Also John Vernon has extended an invitation to his home. Region 67 is the host-region, so if you have any questions about accommodations, activities or the agenda, contact chair Gail Lightfoot, (714) 623-1117.

All meetings of the ExCom are open to the public, and there will be ample seating for observers. You do not have to be an ExCom member to attend either the meetings or the activities afterwards.

News and Events from the Regions

Desert Trek Planned

Libertarian Four-Wheel Drive Owners: Here's a chance to see those areas of desert which will be closed to you by the Cranston bill SB 11/HR 780 (see last month's *CLNews*). Steve Pencall (Reg. 63) is coordinating a trip to the East Mojave Desert. You will see roads in "roadless areas" and other wonders of doublespeak; and, if it can be arranged, you'll be able to meet and talk with the ranchers, miners, and other residents who'll be affected by the bills. Spectacular scenery is guaranteed. It'll be a weekend of fun that will also build your awareness of the issues. The trip will be held some time in Oct. or Nov. so the weather should be mild to warm and not too windy. Although this is a trip for four-wheelers, some room may be available for passengers. If interested, please call Steve Pencall at (818) 281-8322 as soon as possible.

Here and There

SAN DIEGO COUNTY: Dennis Thompson has decided to run for governor in 1990. A pre-campaign kick-off party is scheduled at the Grecos' home, 3596 Sidney Place, on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 2-6 p.m. No charge at the door, but it is a fundraiser to enable the campaign to buy stationery, set up a mailing fund, etc. For more information call Dick Rider at (619) 276-7166.

Bill Holmes, who was hoping to run in the special election for the 76th Assembly District seat (see last month's newsletter), was a few signatures short of the necessary number for filing. Well, better luck next time.

ORANGE COUNTY: Orange County chair Richard Martin was able to arrange for himself and David Bergland, our 1984 presidential candidate, to be on the Tom Lykus talk-show to discuss libertarianism in general and field questions from the calls. "We talked about every topic from foreign policy to drugs—you name it," says Richard. This was from 5-7 p.m., which is prime time for people listening to their car radios on the way home. It's estimated that at any one time at least one million people are listening, and that in the two hour period over five million people heard at least something about libertarianism.

FRESNO COUNTY: Roy Shimp and John Graham went to Drug Forum and distributed "Battle for Legalization" flyers and talked to the public. John was interviewed by Channel 24. "... If we take away the profit, nobody would be trying to sell drugs to your kids. People don't do that for fun—they do it for money. ..." That's the sound bite they put on the 11 p.m. news.



Mike Iddings to Run for V-C

Mike Iddings of Santa Clara County will seek the office of vice-chair of the Libertarian Party at the upcoming National Convention in Philadelphia (Aug. 31-Sept. 3). Mike is presently a state excom rep. for his county. As he has only just announced his decision, *CLNews* does not have many details. However, so far he has the endorsements of past LPC chair Ted Brown, *LP News* editor Karl Hess, and the Santa Clara County excom. Call Mike at the state office for more information.

Platform Committee Note: Ted Brown, Bill Evers and Mike Iddings were chosen by the National Committee in April to serve on the Platform Committee at the Convention; John Vernon was elected Platform Committee representative from California at the May excom meeting. Contact them if you have suggestions concerning the National LP Platform.

The "Clean Needle" Initiative

As of press time it looks as though the San Francisco LP's "Clean Needle" Initiative will be on the November ballot. Ten thousand valid signatures are needed for qualification, and signature gatherers have turned in 12,000. Another 1,500 or 2,000 are due, and George Meyers, author of the initiative, reports he is confident that he'll have 14,000 by the filing date. But, he adds, he'd feel a lot more certain of success if he had 15,000 to provide a wider margin of safety in case of disqualifications.

Update: Shimp for Congress

"Things are really going crazy around here," reports Merced County chair Roy Shimp, who is running for Tony Coelho's 15th Congressional District seat. Roy has just learned that Mike Stewart, a local DJ on station KTRB, has recently registered Libertarian in order to enter the race. According to reports, Stewart's not been a registered anything for years, and is doing it as a publicity stunt for the station (two years ago he ran for mayor as a joke)—but the *Modesto Bee* is treating his as a serious campaign, which could hurt Roy's efforts.

Interestingly, the news director of KTRB and another DJ are long-time Libertarian activists and were even candidates. Both had signed Roy's signature papers, and were as much surprised as Roy was at Stewart's actions. "He's probably not going to do much except announce his candidacy," says Roy. "He'll have a hard time getting signatures. There are only 300 registered Libertarians in the 15th District, and I got 60 of them to sign my papers."

As *CLNews* reported last month, Roy needs volunteers to walk precincts and hand out literature, and he wants help in formulating libertarian statements on local issues. And of course no candidate—Libertarian or otherwise—ever has enough money. To participate in this campaign, please contact Roy at (209) 7233-1768. Donations should be sent to Shimp for Congress, 2165 E. Bellevue Rd., Merced 95340.

California Libertarian News (CLNews) is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained therein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

Please send regional news, calendar items, photos, non-member subscriptions (see below), and other material to:

Sarah E. Foster, Editor
777 Terrace 49
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(213) 259-9580

Subscription and Advertising Rates: Non-member subscriptions to *CLNews* are available for \$15 per year, bulk mail. Checks should be made payable to the LPC. Subscriptions are included as a membership benefit when you join the Libertarian Party of California (see membership form page five). For advertising rates and specifications, contact Sarah Foster.

Some Notes of Appreciation

John Vernon



The Liberty Van is ready to roll. John Vernon (l) hands keys to Jim Lewis.

Probably one of the most important things which I can do as chairman of the Libertarian Party of California is to recognize those who make possible all the things which we as a political party do. There is very little which the officers alone could accomplish, and it is the activity of member-activists which carries the party forward and gives it substance. So, here goes.

Sam Treynor (Reg. 66) arranged for me to purchase the Liberty Van (see photo) through his former employer **Don**

Kott Ford, at \$300 over invoice. It was then professionally lettered and decorated by **Robert Leet** (Reg. 61), and voila! the Libertarian Party has a traveling billboard which doubles as transportation medium and literature delivery van for our Field Co-Ordinator, **Jim Lewis**.

The Liberty Van and the work of Field Co-ordinator Jim Lewis are made possible by the contribution of the 49 or so individuals who as of this writing have made contributions or pledges to his program. My heartfelt thanks goes to the following:

Mary Lou Stiebling
Christopher Inama
Hans O. Sorensen
John Batz
Marion E. Kintner
Don New Farmer
Chris Rufer
Barbara Thomas
Charles F. Barr
Kevin Scoggin
Laura Stewart
Ray Bledsaw
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Charles and Barbara Heald

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Gordon Kostyk
Richard Arnold
Pat Wright
J. Kriss White
Wayne Nygren
Bruce Daniels
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Young

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Using the Nolan Chart

I Got Two — Do You?

Randall Grindle

Two what? If you enjoy discussing politics, then it'll be fun and easy for you to get two new Libertarian registrants each month. Just carry a couple of our registration kits around with you in your pocket or purse, and when the subject of politics arises, ask the persons you're talking with if they'd like to discover their true political identity. Most folks are interested in the three-minute quiz in the kit which shows where they fit in.

The odds are that one out of six people you encounter will be libertarian: pollsters have found that 15-20 percent of the public thinks this way today. When the self-discovery quiz reveals a new libertarian, you give them one of the "What is the Libertarian Party?" brochures and explain that this is the political party that best represents their viewpoint. Next, ask if they would like to register to vote in it, to send the politicians a clear message about what they believe. One-third to one-half of those who discover that they are libertarians will register, and you can usually get the name, address and phone number of the others on the quiz card to receive more information.

We'll send you a six-month supply of registration kits, plus instructions on how to use them, if you write or call: Libertarian Voter Registration Project, P.O. Box 684, Lower Lake, 95457; (707) 994-4817. We'll put you in touch with the person in your area who can show you how to use the kit, or with our new field coordinator Jim Lewis, who'll be touring the state showing the regions how to set up an effective local registration drives.

Whether the Libertarian Party remains on the ballot as the only consistent political voice of liberty depends on you. Don't be an inactivist. Please help recruit your share of new libertarians that we need to organize to keep the statists from eroding our freedom any further.

Randy is the LPC chair of Lake County and a coordinator of the state registration drive.

Where Our Friends Are

Is there a "secret" Libertarian on your city council (or board of supervisors, planning commission, whatever)? Here's how to find out. Jim McClarin, former California LP candidate for assembly and now vice chair of the LP of New Hampshire, mailed "Nolan Chart" postcards to all 400 representatives in the New Hampshire legislature, each with a hand-written note inviting them to take the quiz and suggesting they contact the LPNH if they scored high.

By late May, two reps had requested more information—and one of these scored a perfect 100 percent! Now if there's any lobbying to do, the LPNH knows who to talk to. Jim plans to mail cards to New Hampshire business owners. "I expect more of them to be Libertarian," he says.

Seems a great outreach idea, but if a full mailing to the state legislature is more than a local activist would want to take on, how about your city council? For a chuckle, why not the redevelopment agency? Or your own assemblymember or state senator, and maybe their staff? If anyone decides to do it, please let *CLNews* know the results.

Editor's Note: This article is based on one in *Libertarian Lines*, the newsletter of the LPNH. Jim can be reached at P.O. Box 1596, Meredith, NH 03253.

Some Notes of Appreciation (continued)

There are others whose names have not yet been made known to me, but their support is needed and appreciated.

The Party's newest version of the diamond-chart, titled "Are You A Libertarian", represents the contributions of numerous individuals, not the least of whom is **David Nolan** who originated the idea. From there, **Marshall Fritz**, **Russell Means** and others continued to develop it. Most recently, **Neal Donner**, **Ernst Ghermann**, **Jordan Zimmerman** and yours truly added ideas, until we now have a chart that, in my opinion, approaches perfection. Last, but certainly not least, are the contributions of **Susanne Anschutz**, who beautifully typeset the highly revised version, and finally, the work of Libertarian printer **Doug Hoile**, who made it available to us at less than half the market cost.

The Party also has a new piece of literature which we send out people who call the -800 number. It's called "You Asked About the Libertarian Party," and was composed by **Greg Raven** (Reg. 61), with editorial contributions from me. Greg also arranged for artwork by his friend **Laurie Ferguson** and created a handsome layout on his Macintosh PC.

A special thanks goes to **Roger Bloxham**, who performed a special service by raising the money and promoting the idea of the flying banner that flew over southland on July 4.

Backing up that effort on the ground was **Neal Donner**, who with his gang of hardy volunteers took to the beaches to seek new Libertarian Party registration. They were successful in registering 14 new Libertarians and obtaining 25 names for the newsletter. **Michael Everling**, **Bob Weber**, **Pauline Russell**, **Joe Miranda**, **Kriss White**, **Jim Beaton**, **Devin Cutler**, **Collene Wheaton** and **Ernst Ghermann** participated in the July 4 effort in Santa Monica. In addition, volunteers

Ellen Baker and **Bob Stevenson** have been among the stalwarts responsible for the 88 new registrations and 137 mailing list names accumulated by Neal's group.

Still in the southern part of the state, **Bonnie Flickinger**, **Ed Moss** and **Gail Lightfoot** are to be commended for putting together a booth at the Moreno Valley Festival; as should be the ever faithful San Diego Libertarians, led by their stalwart chariman **Dick Rider**, who staffed a booth at the County Fair at Del Mar—40 Libertarians were on hand.

Moving north, candidate **Roy Shimp** has registered more than 12 new Libertarians at the farmers' market in Merced.

Bob and **Greta Bickford** deserve special recognition for organizing a booth at the Marin Co. Fair. Volunteers came to Marin Co. from as far south as San Jose and Santa Clara, with office manager **Lyn Sapowsky-Smith** showing up for a six-hour stint.

In San Francisco, **Jim Peron** and **George Meyer** are heading the effort for the advisory "Clean Needle" Initiative, and it looks like it's a success.

No doubt, in recognizing those who have been active in promoting the LPC recently, I've omitted some names, and for this, if I've overlooked you, I apologize. We hope to correct this in the near future by preparing a month-to-month Regional Report form. This will help us find out where we can best use the talents of Field Co-Ordinator **Jim Lewis**.

My words of thanks would be incomplete if I did not recognize the on-going contributions of **Sarah Foster**, our newsletter editor, and **Lyn Sapowsky-Smith** and **Mike Iddings**, our loyal and regular office workers. To these and all others who are contributing to the work of the Libertarian Party of California, I give a hearty "Thank You!"

"Lynching Party"

from page one

the draft version of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). On July 5, a vote to approve the EIR was to be taken. Clearlake has a city council of five members (one of whom serves as mayor), and three votes were needed for approval. The mayor and one council-member disqualified themselves due to conflict of interest, which meant that the remaining three would have to be in agreement. Two said fine, but **Struthers** put his foot down by and just said no. Later he told the press, "This report has no value in my opinion. I have told **Dan Obermeyer** over and over again that public education is needed to let people know about this." **Struthers** felt that the EIR was vague and deliberately misleading.

You'd think he'd be honored for his integrity, but the local press was outraged. "Struthers Vote Costs City \$50,000" screamed the headlines, referring to the price-tag on putting together the EIR and a redevelopment plan for Clearlake. Editors and reporters castigated him, but the worst was yet to come.

On July 10 **Obermeyer** placed an ad in the paper (which ran it at no charge) inviting those interested in bringing redevelopment to Clearlake to come to the next council meeting, on July 17. However, the published agenda listed no item dealing with redevelopment. Curious.

When **Struthers** arrived at the meeting he saw that there were at least 200 people in the room. He has since found out that the mayor and others phoned their friends and told them to come to the meeting—"if you're for redevelopment."

Mayor **Caroline Constable** opened the meeting with the first item, Public Input, and about 30 members of the "public"—developers and various city hall toadies—got in line to participate in a public bashing of **Bill Struthers**. When he tried to protest **Constable** ruled him out of order and told him to hold questions and comments till the end of the "discussion." For two hours **Struthers** suffered abuse at the hands of a pack of howling pecksniffs. When the last member of the "public" had vented his spleen it was **Struthers** turn, "But I felt so devastated I couldn't think of a thing to say. I felt completely numb," he recalls.

But he didn't feel wiped out for long. Despite hostility from the press, city council and administration, **Struthers** is hanging in there and has lined up some consultants on his side. A number of irregularities in conjunction with the drafting of the EIR and the establishment of the project area have been uncovered. Expect some fireworks when this is all brought into the open.

People like **Bill Struthers**, who are willing to stand in the frontlines, are rare and deserve our support; and it's easier to fight the good fight if you know you're not alone—that there are folks on the sidelines cheering you on. He'd sure like to hear from Libertarians—a note of encouragement or some information on your experiences with government or redevelopment agencies. He's been getting so many hate calls that libertarian ones would be a blessing. His address is P.O. Box 233, Clearlake 95432; Tele: (707) 995-2109.

Chinese Students Vow Freedom for China

Our brethren are already in the field—why stand we here idle?

Patrick Henry

Last month Libertarians watched in outrage at the events in China, wondering if there was anything we as individuals could do to help those brave young people. What could we do to assure that the torch of liberty they lighted in Tiananmen Square be kept burning. Is there anything we can do? The answer is yes!

Libertarian International (LI), the world-wide network for freedom-loving people, has learned of a new organization called the Alliance of Chinese Patriots, which was formed June 7, a few days after the Beijing Massacre. The founders are students from mainland China studying at various universities in this country and who rallied in Washington to establish the organization. With the help of several American libertarian constitutional scholars (including Roger Pilon of Cato Institute), the Alliance drafted the following statement.

Declaration of Chinese Patriots

As the world watches, we, the Chinese people are today engaged in an epic struggle to cast off the chains that have bound us for two generations. The present system has been tried in China and has failed. It has produced hunger where there should be plenty, corruption where there should be integrity, servitude where there should be freedom. The Chinese Communist Party and the government it created are today under siege because they have failed to understand that the Chinese people will no longer tolerate these conditions. The Chinese people yearn to be free. We yearn to join the community of free peoples. We will not rest until we do.

Therefore we, Chinese patriots, declare the principles that guide our struggle for freedom:

1. Every individual is born with equal and inalienable human rights.
2. The basic right of every individual is the right to be free, the right to plan and live his or her own life. This right entails all other rights, including the rights of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, property, and privacy.
3. To secure these rights, individuals create government, to which they give only as much power as is necessary to secure their rights.
4. A government is legitimate only if it rests on the consent of the governed.
5. The people retain the right to deny legitimacy to their government by withdrawing their consent.

To secure these principles through law and legal institutions, we all for a constitutional convention where the people's representatives, selected in free and open elections, will write a constitution for a free China.

According to their Statement of Purpose, the Alliance will encourage "the development and dissemination of the ideas and information that will lead to a free, prosperous, independent, and democratic China. . . grounded on the principles set for in the Declaration. . ." It will monitor the situation in China and encourage Chinese translations of the literature of freedom and democracy and the dissemination of those works throughout China through both print and electronic media.

Vince Miller, founder and director of LI, writing in *Freedom Network News*: describes the Chinese fight for liberty as "a major *cause celebre* for libertarians"; and asks that individuals and organizations in the world network, including state/local LP groups, endorse the Declaration and gather petition signatures in support of it and the students.

For petition forms and more information contact LI at 9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229; tele: (804) 740-6932.

The Alliance of Chinese Patriots is a tax exempt organization. Donations and requests for information should be sent to their office at 1625 K St., N.W., Suite 380, Washington, D.C., 20006.

LET 1,000 FREEDOMS BLOOM!

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Southern Vice-Chair, Neal Donner

2739 Westgate Ave., Los Angeles, 90064 (213) 477-6462

Secretary, Gail Lightfoot

P.O. Box 3207, San Dimas, 91773 (714) 623-1117

Treasurer, Aaron Starr

2085 Alscot Ave., Simi Valley, 93063 (805) 583-3308

California State Office

2156 The Alameda, Suite B; San Jose, 95126 (408) 243-4766

FIDO-NET: 143/6 (408) 243-1933

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National LP Headquarters (202) 543-1988

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LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda	Mon., Aug. 21	Marion McEwen: A Remedy for Poverty	Wayne Nygren	415/531-0760
Butte	Fri., Aug. 4		Jessica Strock	916/893-3836
Calaveras			Tom Tryon	209/736-4845
Contra Costa	Tue., Aug. 8	Program to be Announced	Mike Rother	415/932-4993
El Dorado			Richard Akin	916/622-4785
Fresno			John Graham*	209/275-6220
Humboldt			Daniel Mosier*	707/822-7804
Inyo/Mono Counties		Call County Chair for Information	William Baucum	619/878-2288
Kern			Craig Gifford	805/832-6231
Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Wed., Aug. 9	Gideon Kanner: Landuse Regulation	Phillip Myers	818/703-7056
-62, West L.A.	Thu., Aug. 17	Ann Jackson: Freedom in Health Care	Bob Weber	213/204-0612
-63, Foothills	Tue., Aug. 15	Robert Glassco: New Housing for the Third World	John Tuttle	818/242-5699
-64, Central L.A.	Wed., Aug. 23	Program to be Announced	Don Meyer	213/463-5362
-65, Downey	Tue., Aug. 1	Get-together and General Discussion	Clark Marley	213/695-1979
-66, South Bay	Aug. 17 & 26	Bus. Mting, 8/17; Potluck/Speaker, 8/26: Family Issues	Cullene Lang	595-6266
-67, E. San Gabriel Valley	Thu., Aug. 24	Dinner/Business Meeting	Gail Lightfoot	714/623-1117
Marin	Tue., Aug. 8	Get-together/Discussion	Bob Bickford	415/927-4814
Merced			Roy Shimp	209/723-1768
Monterey			Bob Ratto	408/424-9346
Orange	Tue., Aug. 1	Regular Business Meeting	Richard Martin	213/426-3069
		Liberty Forum Supper Club: No Meeting Till September	Jack Dean*	714/871-0371
Placer			Bruce Daniel*	916/663-2568
Riverside			Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento	Sun., Aug. 13	Get-together at Bob Gehl's House	David Henderson*	916/922-9973
San Bernardino			Ed Moss*	714/986-6677
San Diego	Mon., Aug. 14	Dan Kates: Firearms and Violence—Premises and Evidence	Pat Wright*	619/291-6233
San Diego	Sat., Aug. 26	Dennis Thompson for Governor Kick-off Party	Dick Rider	619/276-7166
San Francisco	Wed., Aug. 9	Video Night: Title to be Announced	Jim Peron	415/864-0952
	Sat., Aug. 19	George O'Brien: Libertarians and the Military (Free Exchange)	George O'Brien*	415/731-3031
San Luis Obispo			David Bersohn	805/466-3963
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara		No Meeting in August	Bob Bakhaus*	805/965-2741
Santa Clara	Aug. 9 & 17	Discussion, Aug. 9; Business Meeting/Dinner, Aug. 17	Steve Alexander	408/554-1119
Santa Cruz			Tom Coughlin	408/458-2603
Solano			Mark Moberg*	707/864-1673
Sonoma			Jim Oglesby	707/894-2658
Tehama			Ross Crain*	916/529-0853
Tulare	Aug. 10 & 24	Study Group Meeting	Roy Kendall	209/732-3237
Ventura	Tue., Aug. 8	Philip Myers: A Comparative Look at Economic Systems	Aaron Starr	805/583-3308
Yolo		See Sacramento County	Bryce Bigwood*	916/758-6219

NEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

California Libertarian News

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